



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
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Dr. William S. Stokes
Executive Director, ICCVAM
Director, NICEATM
NIEHS
P.O. Box 12233
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

January 24, 2011

Dear Dr. Stokes:

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) staff* is gathering information about how the requirements of the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for classifying and labeling chemicals and the Federal Hazardous Substances Act (FHSA) are the same or different in terms of consumer protection. CPSC labeling requirements under the FHSA protect the public against unreasonable risks of injury associated with consumer products, and assist consumers in evaluating the comparative safety of consumer products.

While current FHSA labeling requirements for substances with eye irritation hazards are based on results from testing in 6-animal rabbit eye tests, the GHS classification criteria are based on a maximum of three rabbits per test. In order to conduct an accurate comparison of the FHSA and GHS criteria, CPSC staff would like to develop criteria for classification according to the FHSA that are based on a 3-animal test, provided that this can be done in a scientifically sound manner. This also could serve as the basis for identifying any updates to the GHS that may be necessary to ensure that the current level of consumer protection is maintained.

With this in mind, CPSC staff is requesting that ICCVAM review and provide recommendations for hazard classification criteria for results from tests using three animals that would provide equivalent or better identification of eye hazards than the current FHSA. In addition, if there is appropriate data available, we would appreciate a side-by-side comparison of the recommended FHSA criteria with the GHS criteria. CPSC staff is aware that the NTP Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM), which provides technical support for

* These comments are those of the CPSC staff, have not been reviewed or approved by, and may not necessarily reflect the views of, the Commission.

ICCVAM activities, has an extensive database of eye irritation testing data that could be accessed to provide the necessary analyses. Currently, CPSC staff participates on the ICCVAM Interagency Ocular Toxicity Working Group, and would like any relevant recommendations to be developed in consultation with this group.

As the CPSC Principal Agency Representative on ICCVAM, I will serve as the point of contact at the CPSC for coordination purposes.

The CPSC is highly committed to utilizing test guidelines that minimize animal use to what is necessary to ensure adequate protection of consumers. We appreciate the role of ICCVAM and NICEATM in assisting us in this effort, and look forward to receiving recommendations in response to this request.

Sincerely,

Joanna Matheson, Ph.D.